

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 21033

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR FR JA

SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER CHIRAC'S VISIT TO JAPAN

1. ACCORDING TO THE QUAI, PRIME MINISTER CHIRAC'S VISIT TO JAPAN JULY 29 - AUGUST 3 WILL BE THE USUAL COMBINATION OF WIDE-RANGING, GENERAL DISCUSSION OF MAJOR WORLD PROBLEMS, ECONOMIC AS WELL AS POLITICAL, AND SPECIFIC DISCUSSIONS OF BILATERAL RELATIONS, INCLUDING ECONOMIC, CULTURAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ISSUES. IN THE CONTEXT OF ASIAN/PACIFIC PROBLEMS, THE FRENCH EXPECT TO DISCUSS THEIR RELATIONS WITH VIETNAM AND VIETNAM'S RELATIONS WITH ITS NEIGHBORS. THE QUAI SOURCE THOUGHT THAT DESPITE FRENCH AND JAPANESE INTEREST IN VIETNAM, LITTLE CONCRETE WOULD BE SAID ON EITHER SIDE SINCE THERE ARE, FOR BOTH COUNTRIES, TOO MANY PROBLEMS STILL PENDING WITH THE SRV. WORLD ECONOMIC PROBLEMS SHOULD BE DISCUSSED IN GREATER DEPTH SINCE THEY ARE OF MORE DIRECT PRACTICAL INTEREST.

2. AS FOR JAPAN'S RELATIONS WITH FRANCE AND THE EC-NINE, THE FRENCH EXPECT THE GOJ TO TRY TO GET GREATER ACCESS TO THE FRENCH AND EUROPEAN MARKET FOR SOME PRODUCTS, PARTICULARLY ELECTRONICS, AND THE FRENCH, AS USUAL, WILL
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COMPLAIN ABOUT JAPANESE NON-TARIFF BARRIERS. THE JAPAN-

ESE WILL PROBABLY ALSO COMPLAIN ABOUT THE FRENCH DECISION AGAINST THE JAPANESE TELEPHONE EQUIPMENT.

3. THE FRENCH HAVE NO SPECIFIC PLANS TO DISCUSS PRESIDENT GISCARD'S VISIT TO JAPAN TO REPLACE THE CANCELED POMPIDOU VISIT, BUT THEY THOUGHT THE JAPANESE MIGHT RAISE THE QUESTION.

4. FOREIGN MINISTER SAUVAGNARGUES WILL PLAY TWO ROLES DURING THE VISIT. HE WILL BE A PART OF THE PRIME MINISTERIAL PARTY, AND HE WILL ALSO CONDUCT THE ANNUAL FRANCO/JAPANESE COORDINATING TALKS. SAUVAGNARGUES WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS (LABOULAYE, WHO WAS FORMERLY AMBASSADOR TO JAPAN) AND DIRECTOR OF ASIAN AFFAIRS (NOIVILLE, WHO WAS FORMERLY LABOULAYE'S DCM IN TOKYO).

5. IN SUM, THE FRENCH EXPECT NOTHING STARTLING FROM THE VISIT. NO IMPORTANT AGREEMENTS ARE EXPECTED TO BE SIGNED; THERE WILL MERELY BE THE CHANCE TO EXCHANGE VIEWS AT HIGH LEVELS.

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